

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:LMRIVES/L/EA:OTJOHNSON:CEJ

APPROVED BY EA:MSTEARNES

H:ASCHNEE

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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R 242115Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T STATE 209975

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, MCAP, EAID, LA

SUBJECT:CONTINUATION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN POST-PGNUM

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 7252 (B) VIENTIANE 7146 (PARA 2)

1. WE WERE GRATIFIED TO LEARN (REF B) OF SOUVANNA'S INTENTION TO PROVIDE US WITH A LETTER CONFIRMING HIS DESIRE THAT THE USG CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO RLG INTO POST-PGNUM. YOUR DRAFT LETTER (REF A) STRIKES US AS A USEFUL REMINDER TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THIS INTENTION.

2. THERE FOLLOWS OUR REDRAFT OF YOUR PROPOSED LETTER WHICH IS SLIGHTLY CHANGED IN EMPHASIS AND TONE AND WITH SUGGESTION THAT A PERIOD BE PLACED FOLLOWING THE PHASE "AFTER FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT" AND THE REMAINDER OF THE LAST PARAGRAPH DELETED.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE MARGINALLY HELPFUL IN OUR DEALINGS WITH THE CONGRESS (AND THE PRESS) IF WE COULD POINT TO A CONFIRMATION OF SOUVANNA'S DESIRE THAT OUR ASSISTANCE CONTINUE, WHICH DID NOT MAKE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO OLD 1962 REQUEST. AS YOU KNOW, THE TERMS OF THAT REQUEST ARE VERY SECRET

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NARROW. IF SOUVANNA IS WILLING TO CONFIRM, IN GENERAL TERMS, HIS DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE US ASSISTANCE (AS INDICATED REF B), WE OUGHT NOT TO SUGGEST THAT HE IMPLICITLY NARROW THE SCOPE OF THAT CONFIRMATION BY REFERRING SPECIFI-

CALLY TO THE 1962 REQUEST. US ASSISTANCE TO LAOS LONG AGO WENT BEYOND THAT REQUESTED IN 1962 AND MAY DO SO AGAIN. SPECIFIC REVALIDATION OF THE NARROW 1962 REQUEST, AS OPPOSED TO A GENERAL CONFIRMATION OF A DESIRE THAT ASSISTANCE CONTINUE, WOULD ONLY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO EXPLAIN TO THE CONGRESS JUST WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR LAO MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

4. PROPOSED DRAFT LETTER TO SOUVANNA: QTE: DURING THE AUDIENCE ACCORDED TO AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEARNS ON OCTOBER 17, 1973, YOUR HIGHNESS STATED YOUR DESIRE FOR CONTINUED US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND DISCUSSED THE RELATIONSHIP OF SUCH US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF LAOS WITH THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT TO RESTORE PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION TO LAOS, SIGNED FEBRUARY 21, 1973, AND THE IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOLS TO THAT AGREEMENT SIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 14. YOUR HIGHNESS STATED THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, YOU SEE NO PROBLEM UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS IN CONTINUING TO RECEIVE US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND WOULD SEND A LETTER TO THE EMBASSY CONFIRMING YOUR HIGHNESS' DESIRE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN THE FUTURE.

5. THIS CONFIRMATION OF YOUR DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE VERY TIMELY BECAUSE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY PREPARING THE ANNUAL REQUEST TO THE CONGRESS FOR FUNDS FOR FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. ENCLOSED IN THIS REQUEST WILL BE BUDGETARY PROPOSALS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE RLG FOR THE PERIOD AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION.

6. I, THEREFORE, SUGGEST THAT YOUR HIGHNESS PROVIDE SUCH A LETTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, RECORDING THE VIEWPOINT EXPRESSED TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEARNS ON CONTINUATION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AFTER FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. END QTE. KISSINGER
SECRET

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SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE209975
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/LC:LMRIVES/L/EA:OTJOHNSON:CEJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750020-0827
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731066/abqcejgb.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: (A) VIENTIANE 7252 (B) VIENTIANE 7146 (PARA 2)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUATION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN POST-PGNU
TAGS: MASS, MCAP, EAID, LA, (SOUVANNA)
To: VIENTIANE INFO BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005